



**MEDIA RELEASE / January 5, 2005**

**Conference of State Bank Supervisors  
1155 Connecticut Avenue NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20036**

### **Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions Receives Re-Accreditation**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) announces that the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions has received its fourth certificate of accreditation, certifying that the department maintains the highest standards and practices in state banking supervision set by the Accreditation Program.

The Department was first accredited in 1989, and as of September 30, 2004, supervised 123 commercial banks with total assets of \$22 billion, one non-deposit trust company, two savings banks and 92 bank holding companies.

Commissioner John Ducrest heads the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions (OFI), which is responsible for the supervision of various entities which provide financial services to the citizens of the State of Louisiana. The Office is divided into three major divisions based on general types of institutions regulated - the Depository Institutions Division, the Non-Depository Services Division, and the Securities Division.

"John Ducrest and his staff run a financial regulatory agency that holds its place with the best in the country," said CSBS President and CEO Neil Milner. "This accreditation demonstrates the Office's commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest levels of quality bank supervision, which provides tremendous benefits to Louisiana's citizens and banks."

CSBS accreditation seeks to strengthen state banking departments and to demonstrate the high quality of state banking departments to the general public, the federal banking agencies, Congress, and other state banking departments.

The accreditation process begins with completion of an extensive self-evaluation questionnaire on all department operations: administration and finance, personnel, training, examination, supervision, and legislative powers. Next, an external review team comprised of veteran state and federal regulators performs an on-site review and presents its findings to an audit team and to the Performance Standards Committee, the members of which vote on the reports of the review team and the audit team.

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The Conference of State Bank Supervisors is the professional association of state officials responsible for chartering, supervising, and regulating the nation's 6,300-plus state-chartered commercial and savings banks, and more than 400 state-licensed foreign banking offices nationwide.